

REMARKS

The application has been amended to overcome the examiner's objections and rejections.

Claims 21 and 23 were withdrawn from further consideration pursuant to 37 CFR 1.142(b) as being drawn to a nonelected species, there being no allowable generic or linking claim.

Claims 1, 2, 5, 7, 13 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being clearly anticipated by Sleamaker.

Claims 3, 6, 26 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Sleamaker.

Claim 4 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Sleamaker in view of Brister.

Claims 12, 15-16, 20, 22 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Sleamaker in view of Lundin.

Claim 17 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Sleamaker in view of Westfall, et al.

Claim 25 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Sleamaker in view of Watterson, et al.

Claims 8-11, 14, 18, 19, and 24 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Claims 1, 5, 6, 8, 10, 13, 16, 17, 19 and 25 were amended to change the term "capable of" to - - adapted for - -.

Claims 21 and 23 were withdrawn, but are now seen allowable as dependent on allowable generic claims 27 and 1, respectively.

Claim 1 was amended to combine claims 1 and 18. Since claim 18 was seen to be allowable if combined with base claim 1, the objection is seen to be overcome and amended claim 1 is now seen to be allowable.

Claims 2-17 and 19-26 depend upon and further limit claim 1, now seen to be allowable, therefore claims 2-17 and 19-26 are also seen to be allowable.

Claim 18 was canceled.

New claim 27 was added, which combines the language of claims 1, 7, and 8. Since claim 8 was seen to be allowable if rewritten in independent form, including the limitations of the base claim 1 and intervening claim 7, the objection is seen to be overcome and new claim 27 is therefore seen to be allowable.

New claim 28 was added, which combines the language of claims 1 and 14. Since claim 14 was seen to be allowable if rewritten in independent form, including the limitations of the base claim 1, the objection is seen to be overcome and new claim 28 is therefore seen to be allowable.

New claim 29 was added, which combines the language of claims 1 and 24. Since claim 24 was seen to be allowable if rewritten in independent form, including the limitations of the base claim 1, the objection is seen to be overcome and new claim 29 is therefore seen to be allowable.

In view of the above amendments and remarks, claims 1-17 and 19-29 are seen to be allowable. Reconsideration and allowance of claims 1-17 and 19-29 is respectfully requested.

A Request for an Automatic 3-month Extension of Time and the Extension Fee of \$475 are enclosed herewith. A fee of \$43 is enclosed to cover one additional independent claim over a total of 3 independent claims and a fee of \$27 is enclosed to cover the three additional total claims which exceed 20. No additional fee is seen to be due.

Respectfully submitted,



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